

CASE STUDY

Ross Memorial Hospital

A successful vermi-compost program feeds over four tonnes of worms

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The Situation

Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay is an active, 175-bed community general hospital, serving more than 80,000 area residents.

The Goal

To divert organic waste from landfill by implementing a vermi-culture program.

The Outcome

- Approximately 15 pounds of used paper towels are being diverted from landfill per week.
- Close to four tonnes of food waste have been fed to the worms over the last three years.

How It Was Done

- A partnership was formed with Sir Sandford Fleming College to investigate a trial worm composting initiative.
- Hospital maintenance staff built appropriate containers to house the worms.
- To start, there were 10 pounds of 'red wriggler' worms
- Through trial and error, staff learned that the worms were happiest at about 20 degrees Celsius.
- At present, the hospital has four large units which house over 40,000 worms.
- Three times a week, the worms are fed with food waste from the cafeteria salad bar, vegetable waste, egg shells, etc.
- "Used" paper towels from the kitchen are used to cover the worms and help insulate them.